

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 04799 271950Z

12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 011523

R 271946Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9727

S E C R E T LONDON 04799

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, XF, UK

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CALLAGHAN VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST

1. DURING A CONVERSATION ON MARCH 27, MICHAEL WEIR REFERRED TO THE IDEA WHICH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN HAD MENTIONED TO THE SECRETARY ON MARCH 23 NAMELY THAT HE (CALLAGHAN) MIGHT MAKE A SWING THROUGH THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE NEXT WEEK OR TEN DAYS "TO TAKE THE TEMPERATURE." WEIR SAID HE WAS TRYING TO DISCOURAGE CALLAGHAN FROM MAKING SUCH A TRIP AT THIS TIME. HE GAVE SEVERAL REASONS FOR HIS OWN BEARISH ATTITUDE: THE US IS IN THE PROCESS OF REASSESSING ITS OWN MIDDLE EAST POLICY; THE BRITISH HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER IN THE WAKE OF THE FAILURE OF THE SECRETARY'S RECENT EFFORTS; IT WOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE USEFUL FOR THE BRITISH TO CANVASS MIDDLE EAST OPINION BEFORE A DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE.

2. WEIR NOTED THAT CALLAGHAN FEELS UNDER SOME DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURE FROM THE CONSERVATIVES TO TAKE A HAND IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE, AND FURTHER THAT CALLAGHAN WOULD SINCERELY LIKE TO MAKE SOME KIND OF CONTRIBUTION IF POSSIBLE. WEIR CONTINUED THAT IF AND WHEN A DATE IS SET FOR A RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE CALLAGHAN MIGHT USEFULLY SOUND OUT OPINION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HOWEVER, WEIR POINTED OUT THAT IF THE BRITISH WERE NOT INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AT GENEVA, IT WOULD BE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 04799 271950Z

QUESTIONABLE WHETHER CALLAGHAN SHOULD TAKE ON SUCH A

ROLE. IN THIS CONNECTION, WEIR SAID THAT THE FRENCH, WITH WHOM THE BRITISH HAD THEIR PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST MARCH 26 WERE TAKING A RELAXED ATTITUDE TOWARD PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA. DE COMMINES SAID THAT THE FRENCH WERE NOT PRESSING TO BE INCLUDED BUT THAT IF THE ARABS URGED THE FRENCH TO ATTEND THE FRENCH WOULD ENTERTAIN THE IDEA. WEIR ADDED THAT THE BRITISH FEEL THE SAME WAY, AND HE FOR ONE IS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF A LOW BRITISH PROFILE.

3. DEPARTMENT PASS AS DESIRED.

RICHARDSON

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LONDON04799  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750108-0672  
**From:** LONDON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750310/aaaaairh.tel  
**Line Count:** 74  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <18 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE CALLAGHAN VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST  
**TAGS:** PFOR, XF, UK, US, (WEIR, MICHAEL), (CALLAGHAN, JAMES)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006